

Additional information may be located on the web site of the American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org) and A Kawasaki Heart (www.kawasakidisease.us).

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY IN HARLEM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Earth Day events in Harlem, New York, and to recognize the dedication of advocates of environmental justice. This year, Harlem will celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day—a day designed to raise our collective awareness of the challenges facing our environmental and global communities.

In the first Earth Day celebration, the Nation directed its attention to the issues of the environment and ways to ensuring its protection for years to come. Congress adjourned—on a Wednesday—for the day to allow Members to hear from their constituents. Roughly 20 million Americans united to express their collective demand for a safer, cleaner, and healthier global community. The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency followed shortly after that momentous day. These were true efforts, not in name alone, to provide important and needed protections to our environment and to make our communities safe, clean, and healthy.

This year, Harlem will focus on the environmental problems of communities of color. West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT) is a non-profit grassroots environmental group that has worked to improve environmental quality and to address equity and justice in environmental issues for predominately African-American and Latino communities. For the last 7 years, they have worked to raise community awareness of environmental hazards, to identify and research ecological threats to minority communities, and to attain governmental policies to protect local communities.

As part of their Earth Day celebrations, WE ACT will honor six luminaries in the field of environmental justice: Alphonse Fletcher, the chairman of Fletcher Asset Management; Dr. Kenneth Olden, the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS); Dr. Joseph Graziano from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University; Lucille McEwen, Esq., president and CEO of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement; Dr. Rafael Lantigua, associate director of General Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital; and Full Spectrum Building and Development, Inc., a Harlem-based development firm that built the first green building in Harlem. These individuals will be awarded WE ACT for Environmental Justice Awards for making “substantial inroads to preserve natural and built environment, and improve environmental health in communities of color.” They will be honored for their hard work in ensuring that minority communities are safe, clean, and healthy communities.

Fellow Members of Congress, please join me in thanking WE ACT for its hard work in organizing Earth Day activities in Harlem, New York. This is a significant day in American history and to our future. We must do more to truly protect our environment from the threats of pollution, industrial contamination, and abuse. We must find a balance that will protect our nature, the environment, and our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS AND THE AMERICAS SOCIETY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Americas Society and Council of the Americas, based in my congressional district, on their 40th anniversary.

I believe the work of these organizations is invaluable in educating all of us about matters related to the Western Hemisphere. The Americas Society promotes cultural understanding through an exchange of ideas among writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and the general public. The Council of the Americas promotes open markets, democracy and the rule of law, through active engagement with U.S. and hemispheric governments.

Founded by David Rockefeller in 1965 as a private sector parallel to President Kennedy's Alliance for the Americas initiative, the Council of the Americas/Americas Society is now in its 40th anniversary year.

During the past 40 years, the Americas Society has promoted many of the great cultural achievements of the Western Hemisphere by showcasing Latin artists, musicians, and authors and contributing to the vibrant cultural diversity of New York City and especially my district.

I am also pleased to note the organization's commitment to arts education, which I believe is a crucial component of school curricula not only in New York, but across the country. By exposing New York City's underprivileged children to the music of the Americas, the Americas Society helps to instill a lifelong appreciation of music.

We must continue to strengthen relations among the nations in the Western Hemisphere. Like the Council of the Americas, I strongly support democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and I commend the Council for its promotion of these ideals in U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere.

Under the leadership of Chairman William Rhodes and President and CEO Susan Segal in New York, the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society have raised their profile significantly, adding new value to members while becoming even more active in the hemispheric policy debate. As consistent advocates for constructive engagement of the Western Hemisphere countries, the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas are contributing to peace, democratic stability, and shared prosperity in the Americas.

Today, Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population. They are making dynamic contributions to the U.S.

economy and culture. As the U.S. population becomes more and more diverse, it will be even more important to foster deeper cultural understandings and cross-border cooperation.

I congratulate the Council of the Americas and Americas Society on their 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF IRVING H. LEVIN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend former state legislator Irving H. Levin on his retirement from his profession as a real estate broker and insurance agent and thank him for his long career of service. Over his lifetime, Mr. Levin has worked on behalf of Rhode Islanders as a community activist, business leader, and model citizen.

Born July 21, 1915, in Providence, Irving Levin has dedicated his life to making Rhode Island a better place. He graduated from Hope High School in 1934 and attended Johnson & Wales College. He then served in the Army during World War II, which inspired his lifelong advocacy for veterans.

Mr. Levin received his real estate license in 1959, and he earned numerous honors and awards for his practice over the years. He was twice recognized as Realtor of the Year by the Greater Providence Board of Realtors, and he was honored as the Rhode Island Realtor of the Year in 1993. A true leader, Mr. Levin also served as the President of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors in 1990.

From 1971 to 1991, Mr. Levin represented Cranston and the citizens of the 27th district of Rhode Island in the General Assembly. During his tenure at the State House, he served as Vice Chairman of the House Corporations Committee and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs. By the time he retired, Mr. Levin was the longest-serving member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. In the General Assembly, Mr. Levin focused his priorities on veterans and senior citizens' issues.

In addition to realtor, insurance agent, and State Representative, Mr. Levin served as president of the Greater Cranston Chamber of Commerce and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators. After leaving public office, Mr. Levin continued his activism with the Jewish War Veterans and served as President of the United Veterans Council of Rhode Island. Mr. Levin's distinguished career has no doubt inspired countless others to follow in his footsteps.

I am proud to honor Mr. Levin today. It is through the efforts of dedicated public servants and community leaders like Mr. Levin that Rhode Island has moved into the 21st century ready to face whatever problems arise. I am confident that if other leaders follow the model set forth by Mr. Levin, Rhode Island and our Nation will continue to be a source of pride for all of us. I hope my colleagues will join me in commending Irving H. Levin.